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**U.S./USSR/
RELATIONS**

RATHER: Defense Department officials say tonight the Soviet Union has beefed up the number of nuclear missile-deploying submarines off the eastern coast of the United States. The Soviets have sent newer Delta class missile-firing submarines to join the older Yankee class subs normally patrolling in the mid-Atlantic. This puts the newer missiles closer to their targets in the United States but also increases the chances they can be detected. Officials say the move apparently is in retaliation for the installation of new U.S. missiles in Europe. But those same observers see the Soviet move as more political than military.